

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Leonard H. Swett Papers

WA MSS S-2708



by Lisa Conathan

2012

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Leonard H. Swett .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Family Correspondence and Family Papers, 1867-1934 .....	6
Series II: Business Papers, 1876-1929 .....	7
Series III: Personal Papers, 1882-1898 .....	8
Series IV: Photographs, 1874-1900 .....	9
Series V: Other Papers, 1876-1885, undated .....	10
Selected Search Terms .....	11

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2708

**CREATOR:** Swett, Leonard Herbet, 1859-

**TITLE:** Leonard H. Swett papers

**DATES:** 1867-1934

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.3 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist chiefly of family correspondence, photographs, and journals, and include a small amount of financial records. Family correspondence includes letters from Leonard H. Swett to his parents (Leonard Swett and Laura Quigg Swett) that document his travels in the American West in the 1880s, when he worked with the United States Geological Survey. He was stationed at, among other locations, Fort Wingate, New Mexico, BQ (Barbecue) Ranch, Indian Territory, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other family papers include records of genealogical research. Personal papers include journals that document Swett's (and an unidentified author's, possibly Swett's) travels in the American West. Photographs, dating chiefly from the late 19th century, depict Leonard H. Swett and family members.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.swett>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.swett>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Michael Vinson on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2005.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The Leonard H. Swett Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Preferred Citation

Leonard H. Swett Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

---

### Processing Information

Former call number: Uncat MSS 1184

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2012.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

---

## Leonard H. Swett

Leonard Herbert Swett, son of Leonard Swett and Laura Quigg, was born in 1858 in Bloomington, Illinois and traveled extensively in the American West as a surveyor with the United States Geological Survey. He married Rose Maria Skillings (1864-1914) in 1889 and they had at least one child, Laura Rose Swett, born in 1897.

## Scope and Contents

The papers consist chiefly of family correspondence, photographs, and journals, and include a small amount of financial records. Family correspondence includes letters from Leonard H. Swett to his parents (Leonard Swett and Laura Swett, nee Quigg) that document his travels in the American West in the 1880s, when he worked with the United States Geological Survey. He was stationed at, among other locations, Fort Wingate, New Mexico, BQ (Barbecue) Ranch, Indian Territory, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other family papers include records of genealogical research. Personal papers include journals that document Swett's (and an unidentified author's, possibly Swett's) travels in the American West. Photographs, dating chiefly from the late 19th century, depict Leonard H. Swett and family members.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Family Correspondence and Family Papers, 1867-1934. II. Business Papers, 1876-1929. III. Personal Papers, 1882-1898. IV. Photographs, 1874-1900. V. Other Papers, 1876-1885.

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Family Correspondence and Family Papers, 1867-1934

1.26 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I consists chiefly of letters from Leonard H. Swett to his mother and father in the 1870s and 1880s, including letters from the American West, where he worked with the United States Geological Survey. The series also includes other family correspondence and the records of genealogy research apparently carried out by Swett's daughter Laura Rose Swett (born 1897).

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 1, f. 1-9	Leonard H. Swett to mother and father	1872-1882
b. 1, f. 10	Mother to Leonard H. Swett	1879-1886
b. 1, f. 11	Ernest H. to Annie Laurie	undated
b. 1, f. 12	Laura Swett to mother	1910, undated
b. 2, f. 13-16	Laura Swett to father	1925-1926, undated
b. 2, f. 17	Laura Swett, incoming correspondence	1867-1926
b. 2, f. 18	Leonard H. Swett to wife	1867-1885
b. 2, f. 19	Harold Ashley Burnham (son-in-law) to Leonard H. Swett	1926, undated
b. 2, f. 20	Rose M. Briggs to Rose, Herbert, and Laura	1896-1914
b. 2, f. 21	Ezra M. Prince to Herbert Swett	1900-1901
b. 2, f. 22	Laura R. Swett to son	1885-1886
b. 2, f. 23	Rose M. Swett, incoming correspondence	1910-1914, undated
b. 2, f. 24	Leonard H. Swett, incoming correspondence	1880-1925
b. 2, f. 25-26	Unsorted correspondence	1875-1934
b. 3, f. 27	Unsorted correspondence	undated
b. 3, f. 28-34	Genealogy files	1887-1913, undated

**Series II: Business Papers, 1876-1929***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series II consists of correspondence relating to Swett's appointment with the United States Geological Survey, receipts for household goods, bank records, and tax returns.

Organized by format.

b. 4, f. 35	Business correspondence	1885-1913
b. 4, f. 36	Receipts	1876-1929
b. 4, f. 37-38	Financial records	1889-1927

**Series III: Personal Papers, 1882-1898***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series III consists of diaries of Leonard and Rose Swett, unidentified diaries, and an address book of Leonard Swett.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 5, f. 39	Address book, Leonard H. Swett	1887
b. 5, f. 40	Diary of Leonard H. Swett	1882
b. 5, f. 41	Diary of Rose Swett	1897-1898
b. 5, f. 42-43	Unidentified diaries	undated



## **Series IV: Photographs, 1874-1900**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series IV consists of photographs of Leonard H. Swett and family members.

Not arranged in any particular order

---

b. 6, f. 44-49	Leonard H. Swett	1874, 1900, undated
b. 6, f. 50	Family members of Leonard H. Swett	1876-1897, undated

---

**Series V: Other Papers, 1876-1885, undated***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series V consists of a manuscript of a speech about Paris by an unidentified author, a phrenology report on Leonard H. Swett, and other miscellaneous papers.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 7, f. 51	Speech about Paris, manuscript	undated
b. 7, f. 52	Phrenological Character of L. H. Swett	1876
b. 7, f. 53	Greeting cards	1882, undated
b. 7, f. 54	Unsorted papers: lists, drawings, etc.	undated
b. 7, f. 55	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 7, f. 56-58	Envelope and stamp collection	1885, undated
b. 7, f. 59	Blank paper	undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Surveyors -- West (U.S.)

### **Geographic Names**

Albuquerque (N.M.) -- Description and travel  
Fort Wingate (N.M.) -- Description and travel  
Indian Territory -- Description and travel  
New Mexico -- Description and travel

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints -- United States -- 19th century

### **Occupations**

Surveyors -- United States -- 19th century  
Surveyors -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century

### **Names**

Swett, Laura Quigg  
Swett, Leonard, 1825-1889  
Swett, Leonard Herbet, 1859-

### **Families**

Sweet family

### **Corporate Body**

Geological Survey (U.S.)